(c) whether it is a fact that 154 employees died from May, 1992 to February, 2002 while contribution towards LIC was being deducted from their salaries but not being remitted to LIC;

(d) if so, how much amount IDPL had to pay as insurance to the dependents of deceased; and

(e) why no responsibility for loss was fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to the IDPL, the fact is that 145 employees had died during May, 1992 to February, 2002 and their contribution towards LIC deducted from salary was not remitted to LIC.

(d) The company had paid Rs. 73.25 lakhs approximately to the dependents of the deceased employees.

(e) According to the IDPL, there was no loss for the company because in any case company had to pay which has been settled now.

Availability of medicines at affordable prices

372. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of general misgivings and galore conditions imposed under which patented medicines/drugs would be available at affordable prices to developing countries under the WTO Agreement reached on 29th August, 2003;

(b) if so, whether Indian users of pharmaceutical companies would be in a position to draw the envisaged benefits without hassles and cumbersome procedures to adequately fight rising mass killer diseases like AIDS, TB, Malaria, etc.; and

(c) if so, how and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.